



VERMONT

Each state has different requirements for getting a civil domestic violence protection order. Because it makes protective orders difficult for teens to obtain, Vermont's grade for protecting teen victims of domestic and dating violence is a C.

Do I Qualify for a Protection Order in Vermont?

Type of Relationship

In order to qualify for a protection order, the abuser must be someone:

- You are dating or used to date¹
- You live with or used to live with³
- You are or used to be in a sexual relationship with²
- Who shared occupancy of a dwelling⁴
- In your family⁵

Type of Abuse⁶

A judge is allowed to give you a protection order when your abuser has:

- Physically abused you
- Threatened to physically abuse you
- Attempted to physically abuse you
- Sexually assaulted you
- Placed you in fear of imminent serious physical harm
- Stalked you

Age

If you are over 18, you can file for a protection order yourself, without an adult's involvement. If you are under 18, the law does not say who can file for you. It will be up to the individual courts and judges whether you can get a protection order without your parent's permission. Check with a local domestic violence organization to see how your local courts handle minors who want protection orders.

How Do I Get a Protection Order?

If you want a protection order, you can go to court and file for a temporary protection order. A judge can give you a temporary order that day and will schedule a full hearing within 10 days.⁷ After the hearing, a judge can give you a permanent order which lasts as long as the judge orders and is renewable.⁸

What Can I Ask for in a Protection Order?

You may ask the court for the following in a protection order:

- Abuser must stay a specific distance away from you and your children and cannot interfere with your personal liberty⁹
- Your abuser cannot contact you or your children by phone or mail.¹¹
- Abuser must stay away from your residence and other places you often go to¹⁰
- Temporary child and spousal support (not to exceed 3 months)¹²

How Much Will It Cost?

It is free.¹³

You have the right to a safe and healthy relationship...
free from violence and free from fear.

¹ Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 15 §1101(2) (2006).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.* §1101(1).

⁷ *Id.* §1104(b).

⁸ *Id.* §1103(e).

⁹ *Id.* §1103(c)(1).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.* §1103(c)(5), (6).

¹³ *Id.* §1103(f).

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